

ABSTRACT

An automated actuation device for releasing items within a confined space, particularly an automated pickup head and gripping plate assembly which is used to grip egg cartons or trays and place those egg cartons or trays in stacks in a shipping container or basket. The actuation device includes a pickup head which may be mounted on any known or conventional apparatus for moving and orienting the pickup head and gripping plates to grasp individual items such as, e.g., egg cartons or trays, and to transfer those items to, and insert those items within, a confined space such as, e.g., a shipping container or basket.